THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

Why Gladstone Precipitated a Great Constitutional Crisis.

THE PEOPLE MOVING FOR RADICAL CHANGES

Foreign Diplomacy, Home Rule and Economic Reform.

DISRAELI'S POSITION.

Is It an Election or a Moral Force Revolution?

Aristocrats Anxious for the Security of Their Order.

LONDON, Jan. 30, 1874. has plunged the United Kingdom into the turmois of a general election. Circulars and addresses, posters blue, yellow and red have begun to shower ever the land; the telegraphic wires have pulled home by the ears, as it were, flocks of peripatetic ers of parliament who were wintering placidly in Italy and France, and of many of whom ne might say in Gray's pathetic lines :-

Alas! unconscious of their doom, The little victims play; No though they they of tills to come, Nor care beyond to-day.

From Lerwick, in the Shetlands, to Berwick upon Tweed, and from Berwick to the Scilly sles; from the plains of Ulster to the wilds of Connaught; in pocket boroughs and teeming cities; in tory shires and Irish strongholds, there is scampering as of herds of Bashan bulls let loose, and a thunderous bellowing of, "Vote for us?" "Vote for us!" Again one must break into rhyme and say :-

From Manchester, where tories are few and far between, From cornland shires, where radicals have never yet been seen; sturdy North and Cookney South, from Centre, East and West,

Up, up they come, with tongues awag, each man pre-pared to stump his best For "Church and Queen" or "People." But why this unexpected call for "stump" and WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF THE DISSOLUTION? In his address to the electors of Greenwich-one of the dreamest, most labored manifestoes ever penned-Premier Gladstone makes a clean breast, and says that the Cabinet was no longer strong enough to carry on the affairs of the country. The triumphant liberal majority of 110 votes returned at the elections of 1868 had dwindled down to something under sixty, and of these sixty not ten could be fully depended upon. The ballot, which it had been thought would swell the liberal ranks, has had just the contrary effect, and one borough after another slipped out of the grasp of the Re form Club. Bath, Gloucester, Dover and Shaltesbury were lost; Greenwich, long steadfast in the faith, admitted an enemy to sit beside the Premier, and then Stroud deserted, with arms and bag gage. This was the crowning bitterness. Stroud returned Lord John Russell in the of the first Reform bill; Stroud of late years elected Mr. Winterbotham one of the Under Secretaries of State, and that Strond, should after this transfer its allegiance to the "Blues," was proof enough that the "tory reaction," so long denied by the Daily News, Daily Telegraph and Spectator, could be denied no longer. Then there was that Ashantee war, flippantly undertaken and grossiy bungled. Had Ministers met the old Parliament they would have peen roughly called to task and have been obliged to fornish explanations most disagreeable to them. seeing that war is an operation of which they know no more than cats do of gunpowder. Again, there was the settlement of the Russians in Khiva, contrary to the promises made by Count Schouvalnoff; the famine in Bengal, the increase of the home rule movement and of ultramontane pretentions in Ireland, and, lastly, there was the question of Mr. Gladstone's seat at Greenwich, which a Parliamentary committee would have been pretty certain to declare vacated by the Premier's sumption of the Chancellorship of the Exchequer. . By dissolving Parliament the Ministers avoided the painful necessity of being interrogated

Mr. Gladstone says that

THE LIBERALS ARE THE TRUE UPHOLDERS OF THE and he dwells on the fact that forty years of liberal administration have done more to consolidate royalty than forty years of toryism ever did. This undeniably true, but Mr. Gladstone omits to point out the true reason of this phenomenon. When the conservatives are in opposition they do not fling stones at the Queen and constitution; and the liberals, who at heart love titles, stars, ribbons and embroidered ciothing as much as their rivals, are allowed to take a surfeit of these plessings in full case and security. But when the dition of affairs! Then is the time to hear fervent declamations against a "bloated aristocracy." pampered episcopacy, ruinous armaments extravagant departments and downtrodden working classes. Then is the time when the expenses of a royal court are most keenly examine and when the democratic institutions of America are extelled. The Daily Telegraph grows holtytoity about the Crown, pokes fun at court chamberlains and asks why the Duke of Cambridge is Commander-in-Chief. The Daily News wakes up to combative radicalism, opens, its columns to for eign refugees, prints letters from Mr. Goldwin Smith and seasons its excited leaders with aphorisms from Stuart Mill and Comte. As for the Speciator, its sneers at the House of Lords and the Bench of Bishops flow from pens full of all the republican irony which Young Oxford can distil. Then, too, comes the time for

and vexed on any of the above topics. If they be

beaten they will resign before the new Parliament

meets; if victorious then they will be enabled to

override opposition criticisms, as they did in 1869

REVOLUTIONARY MEETINGS IN HYDE PARK. Deputations of workingmen wait upon Mr. Gladstone and receive his earnest assurance that mechanics have a right to sit in Parliament: Mr. Lowe recounts his Australian experiences to enthusiastic audiences of iconoclasts; Mr. Bright pounds away at superannuated shams, dignities and privileges; Mr. Stansfeld champions women's rights, and minor liberals by the score spring up ress. Then, again, nears the time when private bills trop up in full force. Hot and fractious M. P.'s, down or "counted out" whenever they try to air their schemes at the Wednesday sittings, "whips" take care to "keep a house" for them, in order that their schemes shall be fully debated, and the liberal leaders compliment them on their patriotic zeal for starting questions which nobody wants to settle. Ah! it is truly a balmy season for men of short purses and long tongues; for every man who has a plan for reforming anything or smashing anybody becomes a personage, and may dream himself on the high way to Cabinet honors, while peers, on the other hand, are made to feel small and superfluous. One may always know whether conservatives or liberals are in Downing street by the treatment which these unhappy peers receive at the hands of the press and also by the tone in which social scandals are discussed. Under Mr. Gladstone there is not an average liberal paper that would print a line against an individual memher of the Upper House; under Mr. Disraeli let a sory peer come before the world in any unpleasant light, political or domestic, and the virtuous outery against his prodigacy or imbecility, as the case ma-Great landowners like the Dukes of Devonshire, Bedford and Sutherland and the Marquesses of

& estminster and Lansdowne do not call themselves

would have been a revolution in England, for the younger sons of whig peers would have put them-selves at the head of the mob and have led them till they themselves were carried off their legs by the torrent. Mr. Gladstone is, therefore, quite right when he describes the liberals as being the firmest upholders of the throne. They are more than its upholders—they are its saviors; for each time they return to office they find the throne splintered, solled and tottering from the atones and mud which their faithful followers have been flinging at it, and the Queen naturally heaves a sign of relief when she sees them come, for their arrival simply means "No more stones for the present."

Mr. Gladstone. then, is anxious for a little rest, but before vacating Downing street he has taken the precaution of launching

TWO PARTHIAN ARROWS AT THE CONSERVATIVES, to wit:—A promise to abolish the income tax and an undertaking to support household franchise in the counties. These two measures, if resisted by the tories, will serve as useful texts for radical declamations against class ascendancy during the period of Mr. Disraeli's rule. If, nowever, the tories accept them, then the former innovation will involve the consequative Chancellor of the Exchequer in dimentites with his finances. He will be unable to show hig surpluses in his budgets, and will be obliged, perhaps, to cast about him for fresh taxes, whereupon the liberals will clamor, like one man, that the tories understand nothing about managing the public purse, and they will complacently adapt to themselves Tennyson's

Tis only we who love the people well, and loathe to see them overtaxed. As to the household suffrage in counties, should the tories support that, what pretext more fruitful for long drawn sighs over the unscrupulousness of Mr. Disraelt, ever ready to shred away his convictions for the sake of retaining place? We have scarcely done yet with the storm of liberal indignation aroused when Mr. Disraeli dished whigs with his Reform bill of 1867, and a new surrender on his part would be pointed at as a final symptom of degradation in the man. So Mr. Gladstone has virtually contrived to make things pleasant for his successors; and possibly some of the keener liberal office-holders, who are not so anxious as their chief to take a little rest, may be thinking that Mr. Gladstone's two measures may yet turn the scale in his favor at the balloting. But this is not likely.

THE COUNTRY IS TIRED OF MR. GLADSTONE. personally popular (for the qualities attributed to him five years ago were such as com-mand respect rather than affection), the liberal managed to rule Britain in a manner profoundly repugnant to the majority of Englishmen. He has humiliated England in foreign eyes, and this to so unmistakable an extent that ever the most partisan radical is forced to own that Britain no longer holds the influence in the world which she wielded under Palmerston. Russia has torn up the Black Sea treaty in her face; the United States (let this be said without offence to American readers, for we are here dis-secting English opinion), has forced her to submit to a fine which, if proposed to the universal sufrage of the United Kingdom, would have been rejected; and the new born Empire of Germany has spoken once or twice to Lord Granville in a tone which no nation durst adopt in former times when speaking to a British Minister. Then, in the Franco-German war every one now feels that the Gladstone Cabinet let slip an opportunity of restoring England to the proud position she held after Waterloo. When Napoleon disturbed the peace of Europe by declaring war against Germany on the most flimsy of pretexts, it was the duty of England to take part against the aggressor. Had she done this she would have shared the triumph of the Germans and would even have benefited France, for she might have declined consenting to the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine, and the Germans, thinking they owed half their victories This is what Englishmen are thinking about Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy—a policy at once timid and anti-humanitarian in its final results; but they are not more satisfied with his policy in home matters. The concessions made to the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ireland; the scandalous appointments of Mr. Harvey to the rectory of Ewelme and of Sir J. Collier to the Lord Chief Justiceship in defiance of the law; the overriding of the will of Parliament by royal warrant; the frivolous experiments of Mr. Lowe in finance; the vexatious legislation of Mr. Bruce for the regulating of the liquor traffic, and the invariable discourtesy shown by the Cabinet in its relations with corporate or scientific bodies-all these things would have covered a tory administration with ineffaceable obloquy, and they have made Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues contemptible. Then sense and candor will not readily forgive them, either, for the many acts of petty jobbery they have perpetrated to recompense party services. Liberals who are so energetic in denouncing

THE INCAPACITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS should, one would think, be more sedulous than their opponents to appoint to that House none but men of proved ability, and yet of the numerous peers which Mr. Gladstone has created (he has created more by himself than had been created during the reigns of George IV., William IV. and of Victoria before him) the majority are humdrum bankers and merchants and the rest all gentlemen undistinguished by any public service of con-Then, again, in the award of minor honors Mr. Gladstone has so invariably preferred partisanship to merit that, with the single exception of Mr. Amplett, just appointed to a puisne indueshin, not one conservative has obtained any favor at his hands. In a word, the Gladstone Cabinet has stamped itself with a brand of meanness and ungenerous pettifoggery. It is a Cabinet of will afford them an opportunity of condemning it more emphatically than might have been the case under the old system of voting. For

THIS IS THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION HELD BY BALLOT, and the ballot has altered the entire aspect of English parties. Under the old system of open voting party discipline was kept up without difficuity, for men were in a manner responsible to neighbors for the votes they gave, and they were averse from changing sides save for very cogent reasons. But nowadays in towns where parties are pretty evenly balanced the scale must be turned by those voters who are not particularly attached to one side or the other, but who oscil late from liberal to tory, according to the caprices or grudges of the hour. Now the caprices are. as we have shown, all against the liberals, and so are the grudges. It is a significant fact that although the liberals have lost nineteen seats in ballot elections they have not been able to conquer a single seat which they did not possess be-Should this state of things prevail at the general election they would probably lose all the seats where they only triumphed by narrow majorities in 1868, and find themselves some 100 votes to the bad in the new Parliament. But it must be remembered there is always a difference between the temper of a constituency during a partial election and its purpose at a general election, when the government of the country is at stake; and it may be that some of the interests now arrayed against the liberals-namely, the home rulers, licensed victuallers, Nonconformists and Roman Catholics-may conclude secret treaties with the party wirepullers before the day of battle, although this is almost hoping against probabilities.

Americans may here ask, "What does the House of Commons represent?" and to give the answer to that questron would puzzle the Court of Queen's Bench. It represents different people and different things in different places. The members for Manchester are generally supposed to represent the Town Clerk. County members often represent the local clergy, who represent a few predominant maiden ladies of noble samilies. Most noblemen of good landed prop-erty, who reside on their estates, send send one or two members to the House of Commons, and one constituency not far from London is understood to be in the gift of the local medical man.

interals for nothing. They well know that their riones and the preregatives of their order are only safe under a liberal administration. It has been truly said that if the whigs had been in opposition at the time of the Irish Reform bill riots there upon a Parliamentary agent for advice. "Oh," said the Parliamentary agent, "I will give you a letter to Dr. —, and he will ask you down to his house. He is a very pleasant fellow, and if you are a fair judge of port wine he will return you."

THE POWER OF THE ARISTOCKA The fact is that the strong thinkers, who hold the threads of public opinion, are beginning to despise Parliament and all belonging to it. They would rather write and speak as they please than vote as they do not please. The whole system of Parliamentary procedure in England has become as at present constituted, is Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, occupied and about to be occupied for one while in talking nonsense upon the topics which happen to be uppermost, and in changing seats with each other. How does all this rhod montade and seat changing affect the people or aders? It does not affect them at all. All the old tricks of public life are played out, and nobody is any longer deceived by them. Such a flerce light of publicity beats upon office that those who have arrived at public honors appear in their up every step of the way-sometimes tumbling down, sometimes clinging on to bad eminence

up every step of the way—sometimes tumbling down, sometimes clinging on to bad eminences by the skin of their teeth—and pitiable figures enough, poor souis! Then they are always the same set. Mr. Gladstone is, indeed, a middiclass man; so is Mr. Disraeli. Mr. Gladstone comes of a family of Liverpool tradesmen.

MR. DISRAEL!

Is a brilliant man of letters, who used to be pleasantly called "the Jew boy," and who had no ancestry or connections at the English Court. But the men who surround both of them are dukes, earls and barons, who could and would render all government impossible, under the existing system, unless they had the ilon's share of it. Now and then a commoner, with a supple back and warranted quite tame. Ikke Mr. Ward Hunt, Mr. Stansteld and Mr. Bruce, is allowed to wriggle in among them; but the essence of the British government is aristocratic. So is the very soul of the people. They are formed by their education and institutions to be a people of slaves and servants, and their innermost hearts are steeped in respect for rent and title. Thus a few days ago a newspaper editor went to a shop to buy a new hat. The hatter himself was not at home, It is the custom of the English nobility to ride in Hyde Park before breakiast, and the hatter was aping them by riding there also. One of his shopmen, however, was ready to serve a customer, if spoken to with proper grufiness; and the abtro, who had a bundle of papers with him, asked this shopman if he would like to have one. The snopman chose the Morning Post, a journal which is filled with accounts of noble weddings, christenings and fashionable entertainments. He did not select the Morning Post, a journal which is filled with accounts of noble weddings, christenings and fashionable entertainments. He did not select the Morning Post, a journal which is filled with accounts of noble weddings, christenings and fashionable entertainments. He did not select the Morning Post, a journal which is filled with accounts of noble weddings, christenings and fashionable

and ladies; is children preser the "Arabian nights" to "Lindley Murray's Grammar." He was the commonest type of shopman.

But wil, or may say, the American public, "Are there no new opinions and interests asserting themselves in unmistakable language and about to make themselves heard?"

Possibly not yet. It is true that there is a sort of misery and discontent in England so deep, that it has not been celore imagined or dreamed of in the history of the world.

PROPLE STILL DIE IN LONGON OF STARVATION.

There are hundreds of wretches in this rich city who have no homes, and spend their lives in wandering about dependent upon chance for a meal; but these people will have no representative in the next Parliament. They never have had any committee of the political lists. They are not voters. They do not influence any statesman, reputation or prospects. Their cases, when they are "Jound drowned?" or otherwise finally disposed of, supply indifferently good padding for the philosophical weeklies; but they are of no other use to any one.

are "found drowned" or otherwise finally disposed of, supply indifferently good padding for the philosophical weeklies; but they are of no other use to any one.

The PEERS ALWAYS IN POWER.

As for political combinations, of course, there will be enough of them. Mr. Disraeli will bid for the votes of all who have deserted his predecessor. The radicals have found out that liberal government, so far as Mr. Gladstone goes in it, is a contemptible sham. He has three Lords at the Foreign Office—Lords Granville, Tenterden and Enfield—having committed a breach of the copstitution to put them there. He has another Lord at the Colonial Office—Lord Kimberley. A duke—the Duke of Argyli—governs india in London, and a banker peer—Lord Mariborough—is supreme at Calcutta. A marquis manages the affairs of Ireland, and he is superinfended by an earl—Lord Spencer. Mr. Gladstone has taken two of the highest offices, in the State, and two salaries for himself. He has distributed the best things in his gift to his sons. But what could the stanchest tory do more than this? If Mr. Disraeli comes in soon, he must imitate this liberal premier, and four dukes will signin be seen in one Cabinet with a mob of expectant earls onleide, in waiting for admission. All the great offices in the diplomatic service are in the possession of born diplomatists. All the best Colonial governorships are given to born ruiers. Bradlaugh, Odger and Holyoake, as Mr. Gladstone said before him, "Come hither, my little triends, and support me. I am the right man for you," Messrs. Bradlaugh, Odger and Holyoake, as for our support?" and Mr. Disraeli will answer, because he must answer, "Nothing;" no, absolutely nothing—unless words will content them. Any British Minister moreover can make this answer and holyoake have no hold on the public leining. Nor has a far higher class of reformers, such as Sir W. Dilke, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Auberson Herbert. Indeed, the last named gentleman has quitted public life, for a time, in sheer hopelesses; but Mr. Harrison? Pooh! P

properly entitled to an opinion in England. Lord Derby, indeed, with six hundred thousand a year, has a landed right to think as he pleases; but Mr. Harrison? Pooh! Pooh!

"Nevertheless," may observe the intelligent American, "that Tichborne case appears one likely enough to give work to a new Ministry. It has an awkward resemblance to that diamond necklace business which upset the French Monarchy." So it has. No reasoning can possibly be truer; and yet nothing will come of it.

THE ENGLISH PRESS
is under a terrible sort of censorship. It has muzzled itself. All the principal newspapers are in the hands of very rich men. Mr. Walter, the proprietor of the Times, has long been booked for a peerage. Mr. Levy, of the Daily News is under the control of the liberal party. The Standard and the Morning Post are pledged to approve all existing things. The weekly press is nowhere. The Pall Mail Gazette is hostile to the claimant. Therefore, although it is certain that, whether he is Tichborne or Orton, he has been unfairly tried; that government has put forth all its strength to take uniair advantage; that it has produced witnesses who have perjured themselves; that it has bribed others not only with money but with public offices. Still it has done so, and might do so again without serious fear of unpleasant consequences.

To be sure, there is the "home rule movement" in Ireland, and it has been agreeably noticed that Mr. Butt is the head of it. Mr. Butt becomes troublesome they will deal with him as they dealt with O'Conneil. English robby politicians, an Irish toy; and there is an end of it. If Mr. Butt becomes troublesome they will deal with him as they dealt with O'Conneil. English robby politicians, an Irish toy; and there is an end of it. If Mr. Butt becomes troublesome they will deal with him as they dealt with O'Conneil. English robby politicians, an Irish toy; and there is an end of it. If Mr. Butt becomes troublesome they will deal with him as they dealt with O'Conneil. English robat is in more to do so, up to

certain point; after that is there not the omnipresent policeman?

An ELECTION AND NOT A REVOLUTION.

To sum up, the next election is merely an election and nothing more. It is not a revolution, and will not, as yet, even point the way to one. There is a great heap of comoustible materials scattered about in England; but they are not collected together. They will explode like squibs, and not like powder magazines, and the torches are not lit which will set light to them. The predominant tone of mind among the best class of Englishmen is a mournful indifferentism. They see that there is much which is terribly wrong; but they do not hope much from any probable change. Universal suffrage, popular government has been tried elsewhere. How has it ended in Austria reforms have turned out a lugubrious farce: In France and in Spain a fearful tragely. Nobody would be content to see Mr. Odger or Mr. Bradlaugh President of a British Republic. Sir W. Dlike is not a very wise gentleman, and these are the aposties of the coming race. England has gone backwards rather than forwards of lateyears, and no government since the time of Mr. Put has been so powerful as that of Mr. Gladyears, and no government since the time of Mr. Gladstone. All the old constitutional checks upon power, which were framed by men like Somers and Halifax, have been broken down; the liberty of the subject is no longer safe, and law has become a luxury only meant for the use of the rich. Yet there has been no public demonstration of late years like the Gordon riots, or the Calo street conspiracy, or the riots of 1810 and 1828, or the Wilkes business, in which the city of London took part; there has been nothing even like the anti-corn law agitation or the Charist demonstration. Mr. Beales, the hero of Hyde Park, is a County Court Judge; Mr. Bright is an out-andout government man; Lord Russell is laid on the shell; Mr. Vernon Harcourt has just accepted office. Where, then, are the leaders of a great reform? There are none. There are—or there were very lately—according to official returns, 380,000 Fenians in the United States, and they frightened whigs and tories not a little at one time. They are quiet now. All is quiet everywhere in the British dominions, save among those pestilent niggers at Ashantee, who persist in disturbing the universal harmony of things English. Perhaps it is the calm which orecedes a storm.

ASHANTEE.

The British Advance March Towards Coomassie.

Sir Garnet Wolseley's Headquarters "Turnout" and His Appearance When Mounted.

KOFFE'S ENVOYS BROUGHT INTO CAMP.

Inkling of the Peace Diplomacy.

PRARSU, ON THE PRAR, Jab. 4, 1874. Sir Garnet Woiseley, the young chief of the Anglo-Ashantee expedition, arriving here on the morning of the 2d inst., was well received. He was mounted in solitary state on the top of a light buggy, which had been drawn all the way from Cape Coast Castle by six strong Fantees, assisted now and then over the deeper sloughs by the police bodyguard. Colonel Wood, Majors Russell and Hume were in the great square of the headquarters ready to receive their chief, and when the new passed through camp that the General had arrived the enthusiasm of the native troops manifested itself in a hoarse murmur and deep hum of joy.

REVIEW OF THE WORKS. Sir Garnet, having reported himself well, in excellent health and spirits, to the numerous queries propounded to him, expressed himself very well satisfied with the vast clearing, the construction of the spacious huts, the ample accommodation provided for the white troops and with the prospective sanitary condition of the camp on the Pran. The officers of his staff corroborated to a man the descriptions I have already given to you of the country between the sea and the Prah, and gave the palm for general discomfort, muddy cataclysms, desponding sloughs, dreary, depressive, melancholic appearance to that part which lies between Sutah and Yan Coomassi

ENVOYS BROUGHT IN.

Early the same morning Lieutenant Grant, it charge of the pickets on the other side of the Prah. was informed by his people that there were some strange people, probably Ashantees, skulking hind trees at some distance beyond. When Lieutenant Grant arrived upon the scene he found both pickets and strangers gesticulating violently towards each other, ducking their heads and dodgbehind any defensive tree that offered each evidently desirous to im-the other party with the feelings of itself. amity which possessed them; but, in the words of a British officer who criticised the performance, "both parties were in a beastly funk." The Lieutenant, however, contrived to caim the gesticulative pantomime, and to induce the small party of Ashantees to come forward, when he was told by a small, stoutly formed Ashantee, wearing a large square goldplated badge on his breast, that he was the town crier of the Aspantee capital. come upon an errand from the King to the English chief; that his companions, at least six o them, were sent with him to see that he did his

"But who are the others? There are eleven of you altogether," demanded the Lieutenant. "Four of them," replied the messenger, "are Ashantees, who overtook us on the road from

Amonquatiah's camp." "Well, what do they want here if they are not of your party?"

"They came to find out where the white men

"Ob, indeed! they are scouts, then," said the Lieutenant. "If they will accompany me they shall see where the white men are."

"Could you not let them return to their chief, who is waiting to near from them?" demanded the messenger.

"No, I could not do such a thing. They came t look for the white men. The white men are on the other side of the Prah; but they must come and see them for themselves, that they may be better able to report about the white men."

The eleven were accordingly brought across the Prah, and, as the General had arrived, were conducted to him; but as he was too fatigued to see them just then they were taken to a hut guarded by a detachment of the Second West India regi ment.

THE ROYAL MESSAGE.

The gold badged ambassador had brought a letder to Sir Garnet Wolseley from the Ashantee King, the contents of which, when read, created

The King of Ashantee, in his customary, ambigu ous way, which may be seen by a glance at his former letters published in the Blue Book, had written to say that he was grieved to hear from his messengers the losses his troops had incurred from an attack made on them at Fasua by the white people The attack, he said, was perfectly unjustifiable try from a visit which one of his chiefs had made to the King of Denkerah, when, after the Denkerah King's death-which had occurred during the visithis men were set upon them by the white people, who slew many hundreds. had always loved the white had ever been friendlily disposed amicable relations with them; but this wanton at tack on his people in the forest of Fasua he could not understand. Would the English chief conde scend to let him know what this hostility meant. and send his messenger, who was in his confidence. back to him in safety ?

THE RFFECT. The feelings of all who heard the contents of this strange letter may be better imagined than described. Either the Ashantee King is a proound diplomatist or he is a poor tool of the Ashan tee chiefs, who have made war upon the Fantee protectorate without informing him of the enterorise in which they have been engaged since Feb ruary, last year. Either he is an unmitigated time he is losing by writing such puerile letters, when he still might save his kingdom, and perhap his crown and life, by asking on what terms can peace be secured at this late hour.

A LESSON IN GUNNERY. This morning the Ashantee ambassadors had the gratification of witnessing the mechanical powers of the Gatling gun. The gun was constructed by Sir William Armstrong, and cost the sum of £24 It weighs, without the caisson, nearly 400 pounds. The calsson is a square chest mounted on wheels and contains but four drums, each drum containing 240 cartridges. By the time the gun was wheeled behind Sir Garnet's house, with its omi nous muzzle pointing up a snaggy bosomed reach of the Prah, it was apparent that the Gatting's harsh thunder was to have a larger audience the had been anticipated. Every officer to whom its wild cracking, ripping notes were unknown had gathered about the Ashantee ambassadors, in the rear of the monster, and away rearward was a vast concourse of Fantee laborers, who had crowded every available spot to witness the effect of the Gatling upon the unconscious Prah.

Captain Rait and Lieutenaut Knox, of the artillery, who superintended the arrangement, were evidently not quite perfect in the mechanism of the Gatling, for, though the preliminaries were be gun in a caim way, the Gatling came near being pronounced a fallure by some of the strong con servative gentlemen. One gentleman had already given his verdict and said that he never saw such a rotten arrangement; that wherever he saw it tried, no matter where, there was always sure to be some stoppage; that so many men as were engaged on the Gatting, armed with Snyders, might have made a far more effective impression on the minds of the ambassadors from Ashantee." gentleman had hardly done speaking when a new drum, loaded with shot, was placed on the top of the gun, and, the handle being turned, the Gatling began to speak with startling emphasis. That part of the river at which it was directed egan to shoot up tall columns of water and spray.

until it appeared as if the Prah was about to form itself into so many gray columns of liquid and to join in a dance. The contents of the drum were expended without a halt, and the effect of the exalbition was hailed with boisterous applause by the Fantee spectators and by the Ashantees with low remarks and expressive looks towards one another. The officers were also well pleased with the effect, and the Gatling, which had its reputation previously endangered, had redeemed its fame and become more highly appreciated than ever.

Yesterday morning the camp of Prabsu, which is rapidly assuming vast proportions, was stirred to its centre by the arrival of the naval brigade, consisting of 250 picked blue jackets from the Cape Coast squadron. These brave fellows had man from Barracoe, seven miles from here. They advanced in perfect order along the road, one half singing the well known song, "When Johnny narching home," the other half keeping step and chorus to "John Brown's knapsack is num ber ninety-two." If any set of men ever looked adapted for hard work the lithe bodied, soft paced men of the naval brigade did. Their frames looked green, sapful, and their faces so cheery and healthy that one could hardly believe they had marched through the eighty miles of irreclaimable forest and swamp between Cape Coast Castle and the Prah River. Sailors always march as if marching were natural to them, as if they were animated men, of joints and muscles; while English soldiers appear stiff and rigid, more like walking machines in comparison.

The uniform of the sailors is the naval blue shirt and wide pants, which they use on shipboard, while they appeared somewhat jauntier in their broad brimmed straw hats, covered with a canvas cape fastened around the hat by a brown muslin veil. The naval brigade is armed with Snyders. THE COLORED TROOPS FIGHT NOBLY.

To-day 300 of the Second West India regiment arrived, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Webber, who has been rusticating so long with his people at Mansu. The Second West India regiment sists, as you may probably be aware, of colored soldiers enlisted from the negro populations of Jamaica, Nassau and other British settlements. Physically they are fine, huge fellows, some of them giants in frame, but as soldiers they don't strike me favorably. They are loyal men though, and I suppose are as ardent in Queen Victoria's cause as the blue jackets are, and no one can rob them of the laurels they have already acquired on this campaign in the bush skirmishes of Abracrampa, Dunquah and Fasua. But their appearance contrasted unfavorably with that of the naval brigade. Their marching was a mere slouch, a heavy, careless, leaden walk. There was no dignified military pace among them; they jerked their heavy feet forward after which they permitted them to fall, without order, unison or emphasis, on the ground; and, of course, their bodies were as ill regulated as their pace. Their arms were swung about as if they were using sledge hammers; their heads bobbed up and down irregularly, and their bodies swayed indolently from side to side, with a downward droop distressing to witness. CAUSES FOR ANXIETY.

One need only have glanced at either of the battalions whose entrée to Prahsu I have described to know at once where must lie Sir Garnet's chief anxiety. The naval brigade was accompanied by a force of carriers laden with baggage and ham mocks, which were almost disheartening, and the pattation of the Second West India was almost as bad. There were probably 800 carriers for 550 soldiers. How many carriers will at this rate be required for the Forty-second Highlanders, the Twenty-third Fusileers and the Rifle Brigade? At the least, I should say, 2,500. Where are the control carriers to come from? For a body of 2,500 white men, 300 West Indians, 1,000 native alites, 500 Haussas and 500 irregulars, how many carriers will be required to provision them on the march to Coomassie? A movable force of nearly 5,000 soldiers, exclusive of their auxiliaries, in the shape of burden-bearing men, requires no small amount of provisions for thirty days. The intention is to march en masse on the 15th inst. across the Prah to the next camp, six miles distant. The bridge has not been completed as yet, and the advance force, which was expected to leave on the 3d, has not begun its forward movement. I have been at this camp now days, and not an ounce of provisions have I seen arrive as yet, although every new arrival must pass before my tent door, as the tent is planted within a few feet of the road. If we are to leave this on the 15th inst and the expedition is destined to have an early success this transport and control matter is really all-important. The road must in some widened to admit of the artillery and rapid progress of the troops, a strong detachment must always be engaged some distance as will follow ought to be constantly pushed forward. Unremitting attention and energy paid to these matters will far more insure the success of the expedition than the most consummate skill in war tacties, because Sir Garnet is not about to measure his military knowledge with that of the Ashantee generals. He has only the task of showing the Ashantees to his gallant Scotch Highlanders, insileers and riflemen, who will know now to deal with them, without any generalship. This is as certain as though it had been an aiready

We have come so far fairly enough: it would be s thousand pities if any laggardness were shown low, and a fine body of white men compelled to wait at Prahsu until they perished by hundreds from the fatal unhealthiness of the climate. I do not suppose that they will be permitted to remain thus exposed; still, it is a matter of anxiety that four days have elapsed and we are not a advanced forward. I have confidence in Sir Garnet that he has in him all the elements of a good leader—a bold, dashing, intrepid chief—and if I hesitate to give him the full measure of praise that more enthusiastic and less prudent admirers have already accorded him it is that I but wait to see those elements of done heretofore Sir Garnet has evinced considerable ability, but it is in that which lies immediately before him that he must show the full extent of his genius.

THE ROYALIST ENVOYS UNDER GUARD. The Ashantee ambassadors are closely guarded, and any conversation with them is strictly prohibited.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES.

Dawes and the Republican Party-Day ger Apprehended-Garfield to Set the Figures Right-Hard Task on Re trenchments-Grand Schemes that Will Fail-The Grangers Reserving Their . WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1874.

The republicans in Congress are considerably exercised to-day over the exposition by the merciless Dawes, of Massachusetts, yesterday, of the exhausted condition of the Treasury and his plan for sweeping retrenchments, in order to make both Dawes, they say, is a bird of evil omen, and has got into the habit of croaking when he should crow. What can we expect, in New Hampshire for instance, from his array of figures on the ex penditures of the last year; what can follow such disclosures but bad luck? His speech will be a wet blanket to the republicans, while it will serve as an official campaign document to the democrats in New Hampshire and Connecticut. Now, if we begin the year's elections with reverse in the East we may find ourselves wrecked and hard aground in November in the West. Such are the views of those calculating republicans who think that every thing affecting the interests of the country should be measured by the interests of the party. Mr. Dawes, however, having in charge the ways and means for keeping the government upon its legs.

Mr. Garfield, chairman of the Committee

keeper to exhibit both sides of the ledger and to

report the ways and means necessary to balance

however, it is under atood, on Bonday next, upon the I tive and Judicial take to show that the figures of Mr. Dawes do not tell the whole story nor give the proper es timates as to the resources, the liabilities and probable receipts, expenditures and balance in the Treasury at the end of the next fiscal year. Mr. Garfield inclines to the great Western idea that more currency is the chief want of the country. He will probably support that portion of the House which holds that the panic of 1873 is over: that the general business affairs of the country are rapidly improving; that without any increase of taxation upon anything, internal or external, we shall have largely increased revenues from customs and internal taxes, and that retrenchments may be pushed so far as to result in serious losses to the Treasury and the general interests of the country.

we shall have largely increased revenues from customs and internal taxes, and that retreachments may be pushed so far as to result in serious losses to the Treasury and the general interests of the country.

Meantime on a bill for a redistribution of the currency, so as to give the West and South a larger share than they now possess, the discussion of the money question in all its betarings and under every possible theory of reform goes on in the Sonate. Nothing his been done by this learned body on the banks, the currency or taxation; but the debate will serve to clear the ground for action and to oring the members to some understanding from the numerous plans of financial relief submitted. The only important question upon which the republicans of both houses appear to have reached a common agreement is the question of retrenchment. They have entered upon the difficult task of meeting the current wants and accumulated defisiencies of the Treasury without increased taxation if possible, and to do this many of the savings proposed, even by Mr. Dawes, appear like candie ends and cheese parings against a deficit to be overcome of \$40,000,000. But it is feared that, whether liberal appropriations or pincing retrenchments are adopted, the results will be disastrous to the republicans in the fail elections—in the one case by the revival of the cry of corruption, and in the other by the revoit of thousands of men thrown out of employment.

In any event the prospect this session for the looby is exceedingly gloomy, and especially upon all such grand money, bond and land absorbing schemes as the following:—

1. The Northern Pacific Raliroad.

2. The southern Pacific Raliroad.

3. The various land grabbing Western State and Territorial raliway schemes before the two Houses.

4. The Rocky Mountain and California grand irrigating canal schemes.

5. The several schemes for steamship subsidies introduced in the House of the Senate.

6. The several schemes for the senate.

7. The reserved trans-Alleghany canals schemes, the p

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Mile. Desciée is said to be recovering. "Leatherstocking" will be the feature to-night

at Niblo's. Bach has lately loomed up en suite at the Paris

Conservatoire. William Warren, the Boston comedian, is stop ping at the Windsor Hotel.

"White Swan" is to be brought out at the New Park Theatre, Brooklyn, to-night. The theatres in general are preparing for special

observances of Washington's birth-day. Mrs. Richings-Bernard gives a concert with her "Musical Union," at Steinway Hall, on Monday.

The Jubilee Singers have invaded England. Hence the defeat of the Ministry, riots, revolution, &c.

Mrs. D. P. Bowers will appear as Amy Robsart at Mrs. Conway's Theatre during the first five nights

of the present week. To-morrow evening is set apart at Irving Hall for the Alsacien-Lorrain pail, for the benefit of emi-

grant Alsaciens-Lorrains. Miss Lisa Weber, who has not acted in this city for some months, begins an engagement this even-ing at the Theatre Comique.

Mr. Daly is characteristically busy endeavoring to solve the mystery as to the previous representation of "Love's Labor Lost," in this city.

Patti and Gounod have entered into a compact the result of which was the production 'Mirelle" at St. Petersburg on February 3. .

The Darwinian orchestra has arrived at the Colosseum. Its success is due to the principle of natural selection and survival of the fittest. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams will begin an en-

gagement at Mrs. Conway's Theatre in Easter eek. They are now at their home in this city. At the Charity benefit at the Grand Opers House

next Thursday afternoon Mr. G. L. Fox will play Richard III., and Mr. Frederick Vokes, Richmond. Gluck's "Alceste," Halevy's "Mosquetaire de la Reine" and Verdi's "Aida" are in active prepara-

The New York Conservatory of Music, the leading musical establishment in this country, will give a grand concert at Steinway Hall next

Mile. Aimée makes her rentrée at the Lyceum Theatre in a few weeks in "La Fille de Madame Angot." She has been very successful in Havans

and Mexico. M. Louis Dachauer, organist of St. Ann's church in Twelfth street, will produce during Lent, for the first time in this city, the Passion music of

The last of the Yorkville course of entertainments, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, comes off this evening with the performance of the Hampden singers at East-

side Hall. Eighty-sixth street and Third avenue. At Booth's "Elene" will be given to-night and Tuesday night, "La Femme de Feu" on Wednesday and Thursday and "Lady of Lyons" on Friday. Or Saturday evening Mrs. Booth will end the engage-ment she has fulfilled so creditably by taking a benefit and appearing as Juliet. "Cheaney Wold"

is the next novelty.

Mme. Pauline Lucca and Mile. Ilma Di Murska leave flavana on Thursday next for this city. The former artist will play in German opera at the Stadt Theatre, commencing early in March, and the latter will appear in Italian opera at the Academy during Easter week. Messrs, Rullman and

Maretzek are the managers. Haydn's "Seasons" were given last evening at the Germania Theatre before an audience of fifty people. The soloists were Miss Rokohi, Mr. Fritsch and Mr. Remmertz. The performance was slovenly and ineffective, and did not inspire confidence in the future artistic success of the impromptu oratorio society. It was anything but a success. We look for something better in the succeeding concerts.

A peculiar entertainment will take place at th Grand Opera House, next Thursday afternoon, for the benefit of the poor of New York. We must enter into particulars on another occasion. All we can say now is that Mr. Frederick and Mr. Fawdon Vokes will act as ushers, Miss Jessie Vokes will have charge of the gate, Miss Victoria Vokes will preside at the bouquet stand, Miss Rosina will dispose of the programmes and Mr. G. L. Fox will of-

ficiate at the box office window.

The concert at the Grand Opera House last night had many attractive elements. The principal one the farewell appearance of M. Wieniawski, the distinguished violinist, who starts for Havana this week. He played some of his best selections, and had the honor of a recall on every occasion. Gilmore's band, of the Twenty-second regiment, played selections by Weber, Donizetti, Plotow, Rossini and Handel. Mme. Lichtmay made a suc cess in the "Ave Maria" of Gounod.

The initial performance of "Lucia" at the Academy on Friday evening by the Strakosch troupe will have the following cast:—Lucis, Mme. Nilsson, Edgardo, M. Capoul, Ashton, M. Maurel. On Saturday evening. "Les Huguenots" will be presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The next week's performance in New York will be-Monday, "Mignon;" Wednesday, "Il Trovatore :" Friday, "Aïda :" Saturday, "Lucia." Thus it will be seen that Madame Nilsson sings in every mences at the Academy on Monday morning.